

## **Region One 2016 “Volunteers Working with Invasives” Proposal**

**National Wildlife Refuge(s):** Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge

**Project Title:** Invasive Non-native Horse and Burro Control and Restoration

**Author:** Aaron Collins, Park Ranger/ Outdoor Recreation Planner Sheldon-Hart Mountain NWRC

**ServCat Owner(s):** Shannon Ludwig, Aaron Collins

**Visibility:** Public

**Total amount requested:** \$15,000

**Category:**

☒ **Invasive Species Prevention**

☒ **Invasive Species Control through Treatment and/or Restoration**

☐ **Invasive Species Inventory, Surveillance, and/or Monitoring**

**Project Description (20 Points):** The primary objective of the project is to continue ongoing partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of Nevada Wilderness for monitoring and repair of fences along the exterior boundary of Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to prevent invasion and re-population of non-native horses and burros from surrounding public and private lands and for continued removal of abandoned livestock developments (i.e. internal fencing and spring developments) and rehabilitation to restore important riparian habitats damaged by feral horses and burros in the past.

**Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points):** Friends of Nevada Wilderness continues to partner with the Service to complete a number of volunteer projects within refuges across Nevada, including Sheldon NWR. Friends of Nevada Wilderness has successfully hosted several volunteer events and maintained a four person work crew on Sheldon Refuge conducting invasive species prevention, control and restoration through maintenance of exterior refuge boundary fencing and removal of interior fencing and abandoned livestock developments throughout each of the past five summers since 2011. The group has pledged their support for this project and will commit staff time, equipment, and whatever matching funding they can secure to ensure success.

**Other Partners (10 Points):** The Greater Hart Sheldon Conservation Fund has contributed more than \$540,000 toward the removal of feral horses and burros and financially supported efforts by Friends of Nevada Wilderness to prevent repopulation of feral horses and burros and to restore important habitats and wilderness values of Sheldon NWR. The Fund’s Board has committed to contributing \$49,200 for this project through 2016 provided the Service is able to match with in-kind contribution and additional funding.

**Criteria for Project Success (10 Points):** In order for this project to be successful it must enable Friends of Nevada Wilderness to host at least one volunteer weekend event, monitor and repair at least eight of the 21 miles of exterior refuge boundary fencing needing maintenance, remove debris and abandoned non-functional water troughs to restore springs, and remove at least eight protective fence enclosures which are no longer necessary. Currently the project requires an additional \$15,000 to be fully successful in 2016.

**Budget:** See Attachment 1

**Attachment 1: Preliminary Budget for Invasive Non-native Horse and Burro Control and Restoration**

<b>Budget for Invasive Horse and Burro Control</b> (based on 2015 expenditures for similar volunteer and work crew projects)	<b>Sheldon Refuge Contributed Funds &amp; In-kind Support</b>	<b>Greater Hart-Sheldon Fund Contribution</b>	<b>Invasive Species Project Funds</b>	
Equipment, tools, and supplies	\$2,600	\$0	<b>\$2,700</b>	
Vehicles and Travel	\$17,500	\$12,500	<b>\$1,800</b>	
Meals and Lodging	\$4,600	\$4,500	<b>\$4,800</b>	
Friends of Nevada Wilderness staff and seasonal employees.	\$0	\$35,000	<b>\$5,700</b>	
Total	\$24,700	\$49,200	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$88,900